of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) To consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1,000 metres, at least for some years.

(iii) To identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(iv) To set apart 4% of the geographical area as protection area like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

Grant of H.R.A. to Central Government Employees

276. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government employees sharing accommodation with other Government employees are granted House Rent Allowance;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the spouses and wards of the Central Government employees who share accommodation allotted to their husbands and parents are not granted any House Rent Allowance;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the estimated amount to be incurred annually, if the same is granted to the above category of Government employees;

(d) whether Government propose to grant House Rent Allowance to all the Government employees irrespective of their relationship with the allottees of Government accommodation; and

(e) if so, when orders to this effect are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) House Rent Allowance is given for compensating the high rents that the employees have to pay for hiring private accommodation. On the other hand, Government accommodation allotted to the Central Government employees is on subsidised rents with large space. House Rent Allowance is admissible only when the employees incur some expenditure on rent or contribute towards rent. In the case of Government accommodation being shared by husband/wife and wards/parents, as one of them is a main allottee, the question of contributing or payment or rent by the other sharer does not arise, in view of their relationship involved. Accordingly, there is no justification to allow House Rent Allowance to sharer of Government accommodation allotted to husband/wife and wards/parents. The total expenditure to be incurred annually by Government, if House Rent Allowance is allowed to above mentioned Government servants, cannot be worked out due to non-availability of data regarding number of Government servants sharing Government accommodation with their parents/spouses/wards and not drawing House Rent Allowance.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise

Destruction of vegetation, shrubs and trees near government colony in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

277. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the vegetation, shrubs and trees near